FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATIONS AND LEGAL CONDITIONS FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN BELARUS

Review, 2014

Legal Transformation Center

Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs

In 2014, the legislation governing the establishment and operation of NGOs underwent certain changes: The Law of the Republic of Belarus of November 4, 2013 "On Amendments and Changes to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus Regarding the Activities of Political Parties and Other Public Associations" took effect on February 20, 2014. Such changes made to the law essential for the operation of public associations, as well as regulations adopted in their development, were generally technical in nature and have kept the old procedure for registration and operation of public associations.

The general legal framework for non-profit organizations remained unchanged. The main problems and obstacles to the activities of non-profit organizations survived both at the level of legal regulation and the level of enforcement.

The most significant restrictions to freedom of association and non-profit organizations in Belarus are as follows:

a) The procedure for state registration of public associations, political parties, their organizational structures and foundations is complex and burdensome. It leaves the possibility for state registration body to refuse in registration of any organization due to minor reasons;

b) There is a prohibition to the activities of various forms of non-profit organizations without state registration. The violation of such prohibition is subject to criminal liability under Article 193[1] of the Criminal Code, which provides for the respective penalty of up to two years' imprisonment;

c) The legislation establishes significant restrictions for non-profit organizations funding, both from domestic and foreign sources. In doing so, the tax benefits are provided selectively and are not the factor contributing to charity and philanthropy;

d) The rights of public associations and other non-profit organizations to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are significantly restricted.

Amendments and Changes to Legislation

In 2014, the main factor that could potentially have an impact on the status of civil society organizations was the change in the rules relating to the public associations registration. However, despite some formal easing of technical conditions and criteria required for registration, real opportunities for the registration of new associations have not increased.

Amendments and changes to the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Public Associations" made by the Law of November 4, 2013 "On Amendments and Changes to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus Regarding the Activities of Political Parties and Other Public Associations" took effect on February 20, 2014. The positive innovations of this Law include the easing of the criterion regarding the regional representation of the founders in creating republican public associations: general requirement on the number of founders has not changed and 50 people are needed to create a republican association. However, if it was previously necessary to have at least 10 members from 4 regions and the city of Minsk, now the minimum representation is at least 1 founder of each of the four regions and the city of Minsk. The Law also reduced the list of documents submitted for registration, clarified some issues of registration of international public associations, branches of registered abroad international public associations, simplified the procedure for the liquidation of public associations, and introduced other technical improvements.

In terms of political parties' regulation, the Law On Amendments and Changes to Certain Laws of the Republic of Belarus Regarding the Activities of Political Parties and Other Public Associations" introduced the rule of possible creation of political parties through transformation of public associations (Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Public Associations", as amended).

At the same time a new ground for the liquidation of public associations was introduced into the Law, i.e. the failure to submit annual reports required by the law to the registering authority for three consecutive years.

The centralization of publications on the registration of new public associations in the supplement to "Justice of Belarus" magazine, stipulated by the law, has not resulted in complications for newly established organizations. A separate section containing the information on the procedure for publication of announcements in the printed edition was created on the magazine's webpage, providing also the templates of applications and payment details. In this case, the new procedure of the publication looks more orderly and clear than the previous procedure for the publication of announcements "The Respublika" (Republic) newspaper and regional publications.

New regulations aimed at bringing the associations in compliance with the amended Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Public Associations" were adopted in February.

On February 3, 2014, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus adopted Decree No.32 "On Amendments and Changes to the Decree of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus of August 30, 2005, No. 48". It should be noted that this regulation, stipulating the procedure for registration and consideration of the documents related to the state registration of political parties, trade unions and other public associations, was published very late - only on February 20, that is, on the day of entry into force of the amended Law "On Public Associations". The scope of regulation of this Decree excluded the issues related to the registration and liquidation, registration and deregistration of organizational structures of

political parties and public associations. In terms of this category, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of February 18, 2014 No.141 approved two separate provisions that took effect on February, 20: "Regulations regarding the accounting organizational structures of political parties and public associations" and "Regulations on the termination of organizational structures of political parties and public associations".

Decree of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus No.19 of January 21, 2014 amended the application forms for the state registration of non-profit organizations as well as for the state registration of changes and/or amendments to the articles of association of non-profit organizations. Such changes are relevant for non-profit organizations established or registered in the form of institutions or associations (unions).

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No.55 of January 30, 2014 amended the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of December 17, 2012, No.559 "On Certain Issues of State Support of Public Association "Belarusian Republican Youth Union" (OO BRSM): the funding of OO BRSM costs will continue in 2014-2015. As before, the expenditures of OO BRSM funded directly by the state have not been published, and are for official use only.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of August 18, 2014 No.799, the validity term of the certificate of approving the name of newly created institutions and associations has been reduced from three to one month. This change took effect on November 30, 2014 and restricted the founders of the newly established institutions in terms of the possible duration of activities aimed at the registration of the legal entity.

On November 30, 2014 the provisions on electronic state registration of legal entities, provided for by the Resolution of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus of September 19, 2014 No.197 "On Certain Issues of State Registration of Economic Entities and Making Amendments and Changes to Resolutions of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus of January 27, 2009 No.8 and of March 10, 2009 No.25" took effect. The new procedure allows the registration of institutions and associations (as well as the approval of their names) by filing documents electronically. However, the registration of public associations and foundations, which are registered by a special procedure, is still carried out only by personal filing.

Staring from April 1, 2014, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of March 25, 2014 No.255 "On Establishing the Amount of the Basic Unit", the amount of the basic unit was increased from 130 thousand rubles to 150 thousand rubles. Government Decree of December 29, 2014 increased the amount of the basic unit to 180 thousand rubles from January 1, 2015.. Thus, during 2014 the amount of the state fee for the registration of non-profit organizations, introduction of changes in their statutes, complaints submission, as well as the amount of the minimum in-kind contributions to the foundations has increased by 38%.

Elements of Social Dialogue

In December 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus invited the representatives of the Legal Transformation Center, RHRPA "Belarusian Helsinki Committee" and a number of other civil society organizations to discuss the draft National Report of the

Republic of Belarus in the second round of the UN Universal Periodic Review for Human Rights (UPR) on the implementation of the recommendations obtained in the first round in 2010[1]. The invited organizations were provided with draft National Report and had the opportunity to make comments. However, unlike the procedure for the preparation of the Report in the first round of the Universal Periodic Review in 2009-2010, this time the representatives of unregistered or deprived of registration of human rights organizations have not been invited to the dialogue regarding the document. According to the experts of the Legal Transformation Center, the final version of the National Report does not take into account the recommendations made and the consultations with of non-governmental organizations with the Government in its preparation were formal and ineffective.[2]

Following the results of the first round of the UPR held in 2010, Belarus has received recommendations on improvement of respect for freedom of association and the legal environment for civil society organizations. Belarus considered some of these recommendations acceptable (those made by Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland). Despite of this, no improvements in this area happened: the legal conditions for the realization of freedom of association and civil society organizations activity are among the worst in the region. The restrictions on freedom for association observed in the first cycle of the UPR survived.

Non-governmental organizations have prepared a number of alternative reports within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, including a general report of a broad coalition of human rights organizations[3], as well as a special report on the legal status of civil society organizations and freedom of association[4].

In December 2014, the Ministry of Economy issued for public consultation draft National Strategy for Sustainable Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Belarus up to 2030 (NSSD-2030). A number of non-profit organizations submitted their proposals to the above mentioned draft, most of which have not been taken into account.

Statistics of Non-Profit Organizations

According to the Ministry of Justice[5], the Ministry of Justice, Departments of Justice of Regional Executive Committees, and Minsk City Executive Committee registered 86 new public associations (1 international, 13 national and 72 local), 3 unions (associations) and 11 new local foundations in 2014.

These figures are slightly higher than the previous year, when the judicial authorities registered 70 new public associations, 1 association of public associations, and 11 foundations. Nevertheless, the number of public associations registered in last two years is significantly lower than the annual registration figures of 2007-2012.

[1] http://mfa.gov.by/upload/UPR_Belarus_National_Report.pdf
[2] http://www.lawtrend.org/freedom-of-association/olga-smolyanko-v-natsdoklade-mid-net-obektivnoj-otsenki-situatsii-so-svobodoj-assotsiatsij-v-belarusi
[3] http://www.lawtrend.org/international-mechanisms/belorusskie-ngo-napravili-v-oon-svoj-doklad-v-ramkah-protsedury-universalnogo-periodicheskogo-obzora
[4] http://www.lawtrend.org/freedom-of-association/svoboda-assotsiatsij-i-pravovye-usloviya-dlya-deyatelnosti-organizatsij-grazhdanskogo-obshhestva-upr-belarus-maj-2015-g
[5] http://minjust.by/ru/site_menu/news?id=1761

In comparison with 2013 year, the total number of registered public associations has increased by 2.9% (from 2521 as of January 1, 2014 to 2596 as of January 1, 2015). The number of registered foundations has increased by 6.9% (from 145 as of January 1, 2014 to 155 as of January 1, 2015).

As of January 1, 2015, 15 political parties and 1071 party local branches, 37 trade unions (33 republican trade unions, 1 territorial union and 3 trade unions associations) and 23032 trade union local branches, 2596 public associations (including 228 international, 709 national and 1,659 local) have been registered in Belarus as of January 1, 2015. 40259 organizational structures (local branches) of public associations have been registered and kept on file. 33 unions (associations) of public associations, 155 foundations (14 international, 136 national and 5 local), and 7 republican state-public associations have been registered.

By activity, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus classifies the public associations as follows: for physical training and sport - 684; charity - 396; youth - 270, including children - 27; educating, cultural and leisure - 232; of citizens considering themselves to be national minorities -113; disabled war veterans, disables workers, veterans - 87; scientific and technical - 84; conservationist, supporters of preservation of history and culture monuments - 73; creative - 49; women - 30, etc.

As in previous years, more than half of the public associations registered in 2014 are of sportive character. No facts of human rights organizations have been recorded.

Increase of Public Associations in Belarus

	October 30, 2003	**January 1, 2004**	**January 1, 2005**	**January 1, 2006**	**March 1, 2007**	**January 1, 2008**	**January 1, 2009**	**January 1, 2010**	**January 1, 2011**	**January 1, 2012**	**January 1, 2013**	**January 1, 2014**	**January 1, 2015**
Number of newly registered public associations (for the previous year)	**94**	**155**	**61**	**85**	**100**	**94**	**-**	**94**	**134**	**118**	**111**	**70**	**86**
Totally registered public associations in the country as of the date specified	**2248**	**2214**	**2259**	**2247**	**2248**	**2255**	**2221**	**2225**	**2325**	**2402**	**2477**	**2521**	**2596**

44 non-governmental institutions[6] were registered in 2014. At that time, it is the highest number of registration of civil society organizations of this legal form (in 2013 - 39, in 2012 - 26, in 2011 - 27).

Please Appendix 1 for the detailed analysis of the practice in registration of non-profit organizations in the form of associations, foundations, and institutions.

[6]Non-government institutions of educations and cultural character are not considered.

Restrictive practices in Registration of Non-Profit Organizations

Numerous denials of registration of public associations were observed in 2014 (as in previous years).

The Resolution of the Main Department of Justice of Minsk City Executive Committee No.3 of February 28, 2014 denied the registration of public association "Chernobyl Veterans". On February 14, the same Department of Justice denied the registration of the public association "Society to Support Extreme Expeditions and Prevent Emergency Situations "Polus". In all cases, the grounds for registration denial were the claims to the documents submitted by the newly created organizations to confirm their registered address: the registration authorities, in addition to the lack of the guarantee letter confirming the availability of the registered address, the lack of the documents confirming the title to the premises to be the violation (the law does not require the mandatory submission of this document). It should be noted that the law contains no clear rules on the content of the documents confirming the registered address, and in many respects the relevant requirements are determined only by the practice of registering authorities.

On July 16, 2014, the Main Department of Justice of Minsk City Executive Committee again refused for the second time to register the public association Public Association “Polus” Society for Extreme Expeditions and Prevention of Emergencies”. As the grounds for refusing the registration, the registering authority again stated the lack of the document confirming the right of the lessor to lease the premises for the legal address of the organization's governing body. In this case, the registering authority also challenged the right of the owner, which provides the premises, to dispose of his property.

A number of non-profit organizations got refusal for similar reasons related to challenging the legitimacy of the registered address: The Main Department of Justice of Minsk City Executive Committee refused to register the Local Foundation to Support Social and Business Ideas "Startideya", the Main Department of Justice of Grodno Region Executive Committee refused to register Cultural and Educational Public Association "Spadchyna" (Heritage). Court of Grodno Region dismissed the complaint to the decision to refuse the registration of Cultural and Educational Public Association "Spadchyna" (Heritage) on November 4. It was the second refusal to register this public association. There were three decisions to refuse the registration of the Local Foundation to Support Social and Business Ideas "Startideya".

On September 2, the Ministry of Justice decided to refuse the registration of the Republican Public Association “Krayovae Obyedinenie Livinov” (The Litvins National Association). The grounds for refusal were some obviously contrived claims to the list of the founders: e.g., K. Marksa street was stated as the place of residence of one of the founders, while according to the Ministry of Justice he lives in “Karla Friedrikhovicha Marksa” street. Based on such absurd claims, the Ministry regarded the list of founders as invalid, which resulted in the refusal to register the association. This is the fifth case of refusal to register this public association.

In January 2014, the Main Department of Justice of Brest City Executive Committee refused the registration of Educational Public Association "Brest Christian Democrats". The claims of the registering authority concerned the fact that the name and nature of the organization indicates its religious character, although there is a sufficient number of secular public associations in Belarus, containing the word "Christian" in their name.

The Resolution of the Ministry of Justice of February 21, 2014 refused to register the Public Association "Sovremenny Vzglyad" (Modern View) and on April 16 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus dismissed the complaint against the decision to refuse the registration of the organization. The grounds for refusal of registration were the claims of the Ministry of Justice to the lists of the founders of the organization. Despite the fact that the founders of the association informed of their ability to easily and quickly eliminate the shortcomings, the Supreme Court considered these technical shortcomings unavoidable and declared the Resolution of the Ministry of Justice on refusal to be legitimate.

In 2014, one public association announced its intention to take advantage of the procedure of creating a political party by a transformation of the public association introduced into the legislation: On March 15, The VIII Extraordinary Assembly of Belarusian Slavic Committee decided on the transformation of the public association into a party bearing the same name. In the future, the initiators of this party creation claimed that the pressure was imposed on its members during the review of the founders' lists at the place of their work in order to force them to refuse participation in the creation of the party. Thus, the practice of creating parties by transforming public associations retains the possibility for restrictive actions by registration authorities and probably will not qualitatively differ from the long-standing mechanism for the creation of political parties (in Belarus since 2000, when CCP BPF was registered, none of at least fifteen known attempts to create a political party was a success).

In July 2014, the Ministry of Justice refused to register the Republican Human Rights Public Association "Movement for the Implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" ("Pakt" Association), established in order to facilitate the implementation of UN Human Rights Committee considerations in Belarus. The grounds for the refusal of registration were the Ministry of Justice claims to the list of the founders of the association. In particular, the failure to specify the working phones at the workplace of some of the founders and the erroneous indication of apartment numbers at the place of residence of one of the founders. The Ministry also stated as the reason for refusal the lack of the attachment to the Minutes of the Foundation Meeting, i.e. the list of the persons present at the Foundation Meeting. The founders of this public association lodged a complaint to the Supreme Court against the refusal to register, but the decision of September 30, 2014 the Court dismissed the complaint and declared the refusal to register legitimate.

Prosecution of Unregistered Organizations

In January 2014, the prosecutor's office issued a warning to Pinsk coordinator of the organizing committee of the party "Belarusian Christian Democracy", Mr. Sergei Sukhoverkhov, regarding the activity of an unregistered organization and possible bringing to criminal liability for such activities.

On January 31, the District Executive Committee of Shchuchin District required the philanthropist, Mr. Aleksey Shchedrov, to close the social institution due to the violation of sanitary norms. Mr. Shchedrov was prosecuted in 2013 under Article 193^1 of the Criminal Code (Illegal organization of the public association, religious organization or foundation or participation in their activities) for the activity of an unregistered public association. However, in September 2013 the philanthropist's prosecution benefactor was discontinued due to the fact that he registered a social institution "Pover v Sebya (Believe in Yourself) and thereby legalized his activities.

The threat of criminal liability for the activities of an unregistered organization under Article 193[1] of the Criminal Code continues to be used. In particular, the violations of this Article by the citizens are being checked. For example, it became known of such a check by Novopolotsk Department of Internal Affairs in relation to Mr. Vadim Drozdov (founder of online resource http://freeregion.info).

Mr. Aleksandr Khrapko from Brest, a member of the unregistered party Belarus Christian Democracy received a written warning on November 6. The document states that the prosecutor's office analyzed the information of KGB department for Brest Region on Mr. Khrapko's participation in the activities of a political party unregistered in the prescribed manner. According to Part 3 of Article 7 of the Law "On Political Parties", as stated in the prosecutor's warning, the activities of unregistered parties and/or unions in Belarus are prohibited. Thus, the participation in an unregistered party contradicts the legislation on political parties. It follows from the warning that in case of further violations of the procedure of participation in political parties, Mr. Khrapko may be subject to statutory liability.

In October 2014, the Supreme Court dismissed the complaint of the participant of "Govori Pravdu (Tell the Truth) campaign, Mr. Aleksand Kuzmin from Beloozerska, who asked to cancel the court rulings regarding the validity of written warning issued by Bereza prosecutor's office under Article 193[1] of the Criminal Code for the activities as the participant of an unregistered organization. The activist received the written warning in March 2013 from the prosecutor of Bereza District.

Restrictions and Obstacles for Civil Society Organizations

The introduction of the practice to publish the data on the control activities of Justice authorities in respect of non-profit organizations in addition to publishing the statistics of public associations and foundations registration in the first half of 2014 can be noted as the positive step of the Ministry of Justice. In particular, according to the Ministry of Justice, the justice authorities checked statutory activities of 15 NGOs in the first half of the year. Based on the checks, sanctions were applied to certain organizations in the form of written warnings: 51 written warnings, of which 42 written warnings were issued by the Ministry of Justice and 9 warnings were issued by regional offices of justice, were issued in the first half of 2014. The activities of 2 public associations (1 republican and 1 local) has been temporarily suspended by the court for the violations of the law. 2 local public association have been liquidated by the courts by the claims of the regional offices of justice.

However, further information about the control of the Ministry of Justice has ceased to be published, and statistics has been restricted by the information on newly registered public associations and those excluded from the register of public associations. At the same time, the statistics on the number of refusals to register newly established public associations and foundations by the Ministry of Justice is still not published, which does not allow assessing the dynamics in terms of the number of refusals to register.

In September 2014, the Main Office of Justice of Mogilev Region filed a suit to suspend the activity of the Public Association “Mogilev Human Rights Center” for three months (one of the few regional human rights organizations with a registered status). The suit was based on the claims to the registered address of the organization that the judicial authorities have refused to re-register under the application submitted by the organization. During the trial, the

organization found a new registered address and submitted relevant documents for registration. Due to this, the court suspended the proceedings until the decision of the Office of Justice on the registration of the new legal address. In October, the Main Office of Justice of Mogilev Region registered a new legal address of the Public Association “Mogilev Human Rights Center”. This was the reason for the termination of already started proceedings to suspend the activities of the only registered human rights association in the region by the Regional Count on November 4. It should be noted that the registration authority regularly claims the registered address of “Mogilev Human Rights Center”. The human rights defenders associate the problems arising in 2014 with the registered address with the pressure imposed on the owner of the premises: the landlord referred to the fact that the lease of the premises to human rights organization causes constant checks and pressure from supervising and inspecting bodies.

In July and August 2014, Mr. Mikhail Voronets, the head of the public association “Volya k Razvitiyu” (The Will to Development), was brought to administrative liability and fined due to the lack of the instructions on waste disposal in the organization. The decision on the imposition of administrative liability was challenged in court and falsified due to procedural violations.

In September, the BPF Party faced difficulties in finding premises for its Congress: according to the representative of the opposition party, over 50 premises in Minsk of required capacity refused to lease them. Moreover, the owners of both public and private premises required the permit of local authorities for the congress, although under the laws the meetings of the bodies of public associations and political parties do not require such a permit. Thus, the party had to adjourn the Congress for a month.

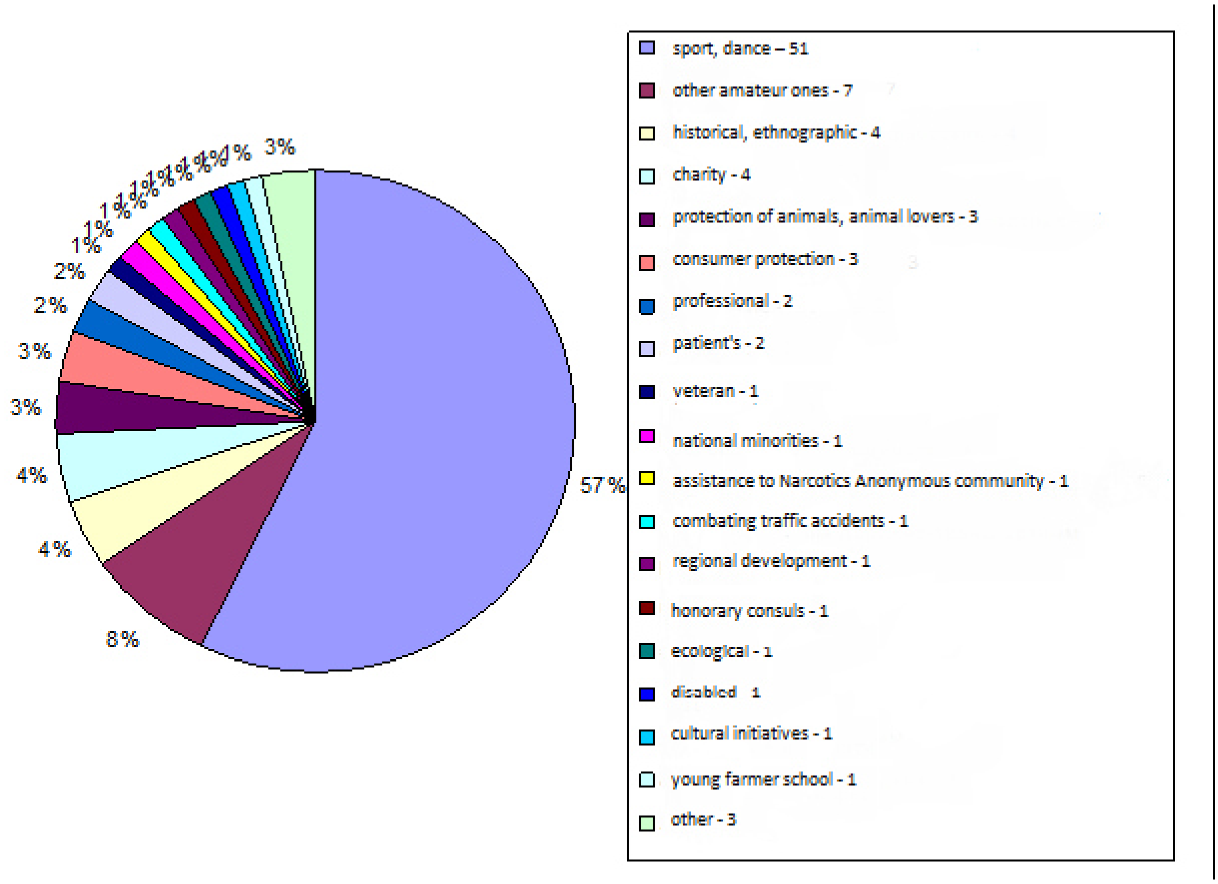
On December 25, Non-Government Organization "Nashe Pokolenie" (Our Generation) claimed that the attackers hacked their email and changed the password on the website of the organization. They also sent information and corresponded on behalf of "Nashe Pokolenie" organization. According to the organization, it has caused irreparable damage to its reputation and led to the breakdown of previously scheduled events. The specified event occurred at a time when Belarus had no access to a number of information sites.

Educational Institution "Legal Transformation Center" faced significant pressure in 2014. On October 29, the decision on canceling the permanent residence permit for Belarus was taken in respect of Ms. Elena Tonkacheva, the Chair of the Board of the Legal Transformation Center, citizen of the Russian Federation, who has been living in Belarus for the last thirty years. On November 5, the Internal Affairs Department of Pervomayski District of Minsk City decided on removal of the human rights defender from the country with the ban to enter Belarus for the next three years. The ground for deprivation of the permanent residence permit and removal was the slight speeding of the car owned by Ms. Elena Tonkacheva captured by the video camera. The superior authorities dismissed the complaint of the human rights activist. Further, the complaint was submitted to the court, which also confirmed the earlier decisions. Representatives of the Belarusian civil society and a number of international organizations associate the removal of Ms. Elena Tonkacheva with her professional activity and considered it to be a form of politically motivated pressure imposed to the well-known human rights organization. For 20 years Ms. E.Tonkacheva and her organization provide professional expert support to non-profit organizations in Belarus, as well as helps in situations of human rights violations. On February 21, 2015, Ms. Elena Tonkacheva left the territory of Belarus.

ANALYSIS OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
REGISTERED IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS IN 2014

According to Legal Transformation Center and the Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus information received based on the analysis of the Unified State Register of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs, 89 public associations and 12 foundations were registered in 2014[7].

Sport and dance public associations were traditionally most active in registering in 2014 (51 associations registered). Other public associations registered in 2014 can be divided by their activities as follows[8]:



To compare, 35 registered public associations in 2013 were of sportive character (53%), 4 - of ecological character. 4 veterans association, 3 charitable, 3 for protection of animals, 3 professional, 2 historical, military and patriotic, 2 cultural and educational associations, 1 volunteer, 1 for consumer protection, 1 fashion, 1 of healthy lifestyle and 6 of other character have also been registered.

The created public associations were distributed by the territory of activity in 2014 as follows:

[7] The difference in numbers in statistics provided by the Ministry of Justice and the statistics obtained by the organization based on USR analysis is due to errors when entering information into the Unified State Register.
[8] Youth associations are not shown separately as they are represented in several groups: sport, historical, etc. "Other" category includes public associations, the activity (character) of which does not follow from their names.

The Main Department of Justice of Minsk City Executive Committee registered 24 organizations[9] (in 2013 - 15);

The Main Department of Justice of Gomel City Executive Committee registered 11 organizations (in 2013 - 3);

The Main Department of Justice of Grodno City Executive Committee registered 10 organizations (in 2013 - 9);

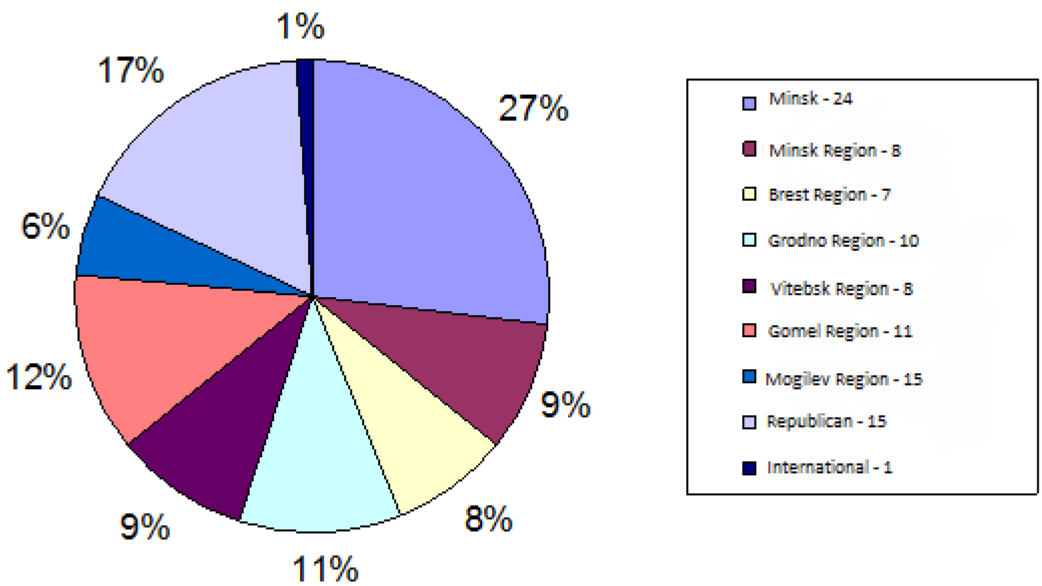
The Main Department of Justice of Vitebsk City Executive Committee registered 8 organizations (in 2013 - 4);

The Main Department of Justice of Minsk City Executive Committee registered 8 organizations (in 2013 - 2);

The Main Department of Justice of Brest City Executive Committee registered 7 organizations (in 2013 - 17);

The Main Department of Justice of Mogilev City Executive Committee registered 5 organizations (in 2013 - 6).

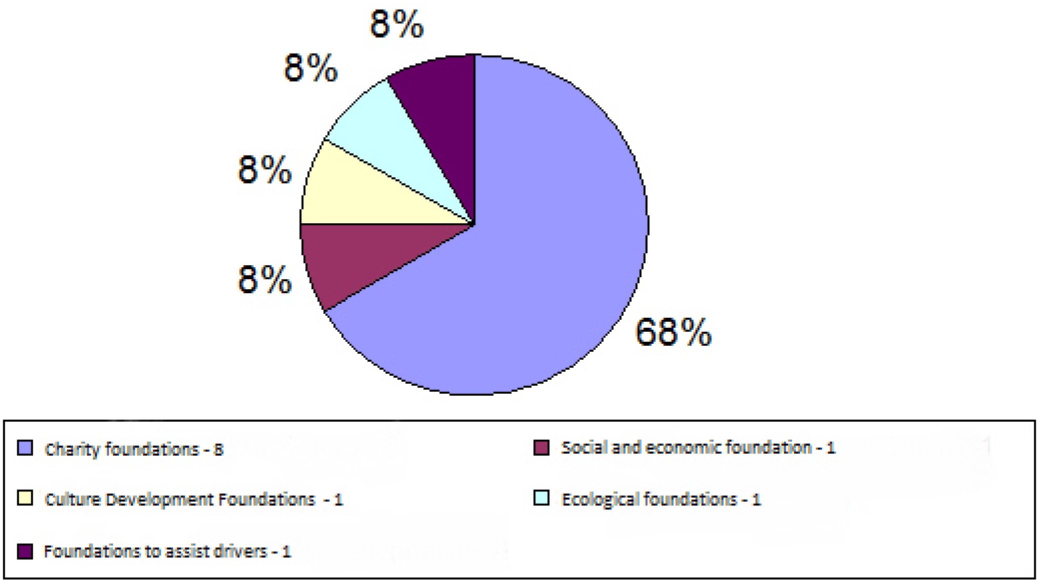
The Ministry of Justice registered 16 public associations, 15 of which have the status of republican public association and 1 is an international public association (in 2013 - 9 republican and 2 international ones).



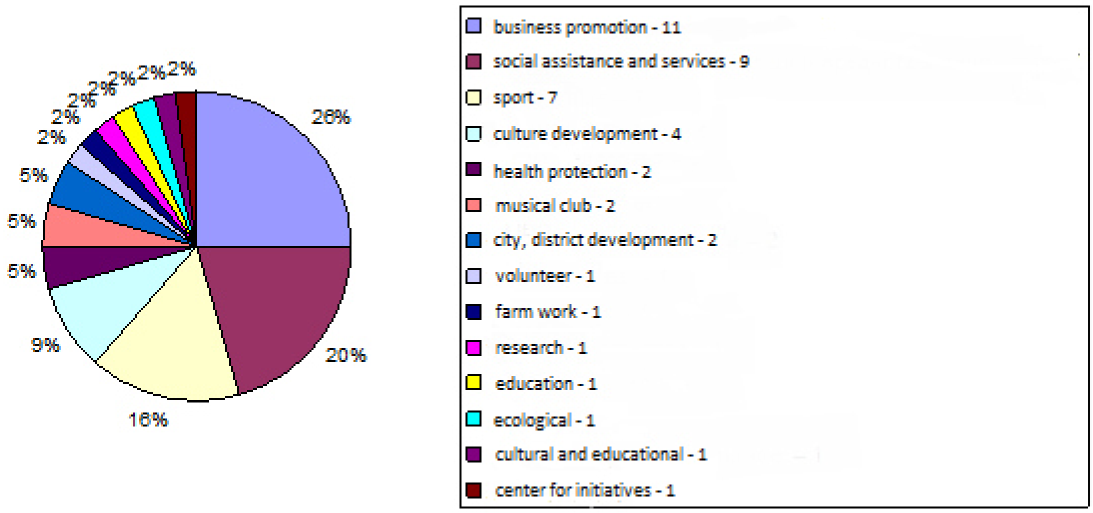
8 out of 12 foundations hold themselves out as charity ones in various areas: to assist children, including the sick, culture, tennis development, 1 social and economic foundation, 1 for the development of culture, 1 ecological, and 1 to assist drivers. 9 out of 10 foundations held themselves as charity ones and 1 declared the educational character of its activity in 2013.

All 12 foundations are local ones.

[9]Activity territory: Minsk City.



44 non-government institutions[10] were registered in Belarus in 2014 (39 in 2013, 26 in 2012, and 27 in 2011). By the nature of activities, the registered institutions are divided into those dealing in the area of:



The following institutions were determined in 2013 by the nature of activities: 12 for social assistance and services, 7 sportive, 5 ecological, 4 educational, 3 of family support, 2 cultural, 2 student, 1 for research, 1 for regional development, 1 for animal protection, 1 for recruit rights protection, and 1 for convict rights protection.

Thus, for several years, there is a tendency in Belarus of substitution of other associations with sporting public associations. The ratio of sports public associations in 2014 to other associations was 57% (53% in 2013, 51% in 2012, 53% in 2011). Registered associations do not much differ in their nature. Their main activity is aimed at meeting the interests of the

[10] Non-government institutions of educations and cultural character are not considered.

members of the associations rather than at solving social problems and achieving socially significant goals.

The increase in the number of republican associations, as compared to previous years, occurred due to the amendments to the Law "On Public Associations", which facilitated the creation of republican associations, canceling the requirement of having 10 members from most regions of the Republic of Belarus. At the same time, due to the large amount of in-kind contributions of the founders of republican and international funds, only the cases of registration of local funds have been recorded.

There has been a steady growth in the number of registered non-governmental institutions since 2011. The nature of many institutions, as before, is similar to the created public associations, i.e. for social assistance, environmental, for animal protection. At the same time, in contrast to 2013 no cases of registration of institutions to protect the rights of certain categories of citizens have been recorded: for recruits, convicts. The tendency of 2014 is the registration of institutions, the goals of which are similar to those of commercial entities or contribute to the development of business: institutions for financial intermediation, consulting, mediation, etc.

In 2014, unlike in 2013, a tendency to create more public associations in Minsk (in comparison with the regions) returned. A significant increase in the number of created Minsk regional public associations can be associated with the amendments to the law "On Public Associations", which took effect in 2014 and canceled the requirement of founders of the local associations from the majority of the administrative-territorial units of the territory where the association performs its activity.

LIST OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS) REGISTERED IN 2014

JANUARY

Public associations

Public Associations "Belarusian Dance Sport Alliance"
Brest City Public Association "Volga" Football Club"
Gomel City Youth Public Associations "Dancer" Dance and Sport Club"
International Public Association "Vzaimoponimanie i Pomosh" (Understanding and Assistance)
Sport Public Associations "Torpedo" (Minsk) Football Club"
Gomel City Public Association "City Without Traffic Accidents"

Foundations

Local Charity Foundation "Nasha Korelichchina" (Our Korelichi Region)

Non-government institutions

Private Information and Advisory Agency "Nash Rayon" (Our District)
"Center for Social Dance" Institution

FEBRUARY

Public associations

Mogilev City Charity Public Association "Nadezhda" (Hope)
Public Association "Theater and Pop Art Club "Zolotaya Maska" (Golden Mask) (Brest)
Youth Public Association "Brazilian Jiu -Jitsu, Valetudo and Luta Livre Federation (Minsk City)
Luninets City Public Associations "Futsal Sport Club "Bazar" (Brest Region)
Vitebsk City Ping-Pong Public Association "Antey"
Public Association "Kletsk" Football Club (Minsk Region)

Non-government institutions

Private Sport Institution "International Extreme Sport Center"
Private Social Institution "Center for Assistance to Families and Children"
Educational and Training Institution "Mediation and Law" Center"
Financial Intermediation Institution "Fortedenar"

MARCH

Public associations

Republican Public Association "Belarusian Club of Caravaners and Auto Tourists".
Youth and Children Public Association "Club for Bicycle Sport and Tourism "VeloSlonim"
Public Association "Vitebsk Region Sport Dance Federation"
Public Association "Club of Intellectual Communication" (Mogilev)
Gomel City Youth Public Association for Martial Arts Peresvet"
Public Association "Ajax" Sports and Athletic Club" (Grodno Region)
Minsk City Historical and Cultural Public Association "Grazhynya"
Public Association "Borisov Irish Dance Federation"
Baranovichi City Public Association "Zapadny Region" (Western Region) Motoclub
Public Association for Animal Protection "Kot v Okoshke" (Cat in the Window) (Minsk City)

Non-government institutions

Scientific Advisory Institution "Vremya Biznesu" (Time for Business)
Information and Advisory Agency "Delovaya Logika" (Business Logic)
Information and Educational Institution "Pensionny Sluchay" (Pension Case)
Social and Educational Institution "Center to Support Cancer Patients "Vo Imya Zhizni" (In the Name of Life)
Social and Cultural Institution "Center for Initiatives"
Information and Practical Institution "Effective Management of Buildings"
Nature Protection Institution "Ekologicheskaya Sfera" (Ecological Sphere)
Private Advisory and Information Agency "Family and Individual health Protection"

APRIL

Public associations

Novolukoml Sport Youth Public Association "Spartak" (Vitebsk Region)
Republican Public Association "Belarusian Federation of Beach Tennis"
Brest City Folklore and Ethnographic association "Karolinka"
Public Association "Historical and Patriotic Club "Poisk" (Search)(Brest Region)
Social and Educational Association "Together against Hepatitis" (Minsk City)
Sport Public Association "Belarusian Federation of Pankration and Martial Arts"
City Public Association "Minsk Water Polo Federation"
Pukhovichi District Association "Pukhovichski Kray" (Pukhovichi Area) (Minsk region).
Public Association "Belarusian Dance Federation"
Pinsk Regional Charity Public Association "Nashi Deti" (Our Children) (Brest Region)
Public Association "Professional Hockey Club "Molodechno" (Minsk Region)
Public Association "Belarusian Republican Association of X-ray Endovascular Surgeons"
Gomel Regional Public Association "Azerbaijani Community "Odzhag"
Republican Social and Environmental Public Association "Zhivoe Partnerstvo" (Living Partnership)
Public Association "Street Workout" Federation"

Foundations

Local Foundation "Cultural Heritage and Modernity" (Minsk)
Local Charity Foundation named after Reverend Evfrasinya Polotskaya (Minsk)
Local Foundation to Assist Drivers on Gomel Region Roads "Drive Assistance"

Non-government institutions

Cultural and Educational Institution "Nika" Volunteer Center"

MAY

Public associations

Gomel Regional Public Association of Cat Lovers "KotoMur"
Public Association of Persons with Disabilities "Osoby Mir" (Special World)
Republican Public Association "Viktoria" Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon Club"

Non-government institutions

Research and Educational Institution "Center for Interdisciplinary Humanities Research"
Private Social Institution "Mogilev Regional Bureau for Social Solutions"
Cultural and Educational Institution "Grodno Rock Club"

JUNE

Public associations

Public Association "Swimming Sports Club "Tsunami" (Grodno)
Charitable Public Association "Listen to Your Heart" (Grodno)
Vitebsk Charitable Volunteer Public Association "Ruka Pomoshi" (Helping Hand)
Gomel City Public Association "Protection of Consumers' Rights"
Public Association "Gomel Region Sport Dance Federation"

Non-government institutions

Private Institution "Children and Youth Sports Club "Tinte"

JULY

Public associations

Mozyr Sports Association "M-City"
Local Public Association "Soligorsk Hockey Club"

Foundations

Local Environment Foundation "Za Chistuyu Pripyat" (For Clear Pripyat)
Local Children's Charity Foundation “Doroga v Zhizn” (Road to Life)
Minsk Social and Economic Foundation “Chistoe Deystvie” (Neat Action)

Non-government institutions

Establishment for Social Adaptation of Orphans “Niti Druzhby” (Threads of Friendship)
Private Cultural Institution “MEM” Electronic Music Center”
Cultural Establishment “Knizhny Office” (Book Office)
Private Family Charitable Institution “Blizhkie Lyudi” (Close People)
Dispute Resolution Institution “Mediation”
Financial Intermediation Institution "Fortedenar BY"

AUGUST

Public associations

Youth Sport Public Association “Futsal Club “Ekzaclub” (Minsk)
Polotsk Regional Youth Public Association “Pautina” Martial Arts Club”
Republican Public Association “Belarusian Caravaners”
Local Public Association “Honorary Consul Society” (Minsk)
Public Association “Gorozhane” Fan Club” (Minsk)
Minsk Public Association for Eastern Health-Improving Arts “Shen”
Youth Taekwondo Public Association “Utrennie Ptitsy” (Morning Birds) (Minsk)
Youth Sport Public Association “Sabay” Sport Club” (Minsk)
Youth Public Association “NESHER” Cultural Initiative” (Minsk)
Public Association “Polotsk “Sports Club”
Youth Public Association “KVN Vitebsk League”
Youth Sport Public Association “Contact Karate Association” (Grodno Region)
Youth Sport Public Association “Fighter” Sport Club” (Minsk)

Foundations

Local Charity Foundation for Tennis Development
Local Charity Foundation “Dari Dobro (Give the Good)

Non-government institutions

Information and Educational Institution “Center of Grodno Region Farming Initiatives”

SEPTEMBER

Public associations

Gomel City Public Association “Legal Aid to Consumers"
Aviation Amateurs’ Public Association “Tochny” (Grodno Region)
Republican Public Association of Investigative Committee Veterans
Molodechno Regional Public Asscoiation “Krivichi”
Public Association “Sport Billiards Alphabet” (Mogilev Region)
Public Association “Shaolin Martial Arts Federation” (Minsk)
Youth Public Association “Drag By” (Minsk)
Sport Public Association "Sports Club “Krok Pobedy” (Step to Victory) (Minsk)
Gomel City Public Association “Sparta” Martial Arts Club”
Grodno Public Association “Neman” Ice Hockey Club Fans”
Youth Sport Public Association “BigSkyFitness” (Minsk)
Sport Public NGO “Piraty” Baseball and Softball Club” (Mogilev)
Public Association “Mogilev Region Ballroom Dancing Federation”
Public Association "Avia Modeling Sports Club"

Foundations

Local Charity Foundation “Named after Z.G. Kolobanov, Participant of the Great Patriotic War”

Non-government institutions

Information and Consulting Institution “Business Promotion”
Sport Institution “UHMAY” Martial Arts Club”
Cultural and Sports Institution “Sport Corporation”
Information and Educational Institution for “Institutional Development”
Information and Consulting Institution “Propus Agency”
Sport Institution “Rugby Union”

OCTOBER

Public associations

Amateur Sport Public Association (Minsk)
Minsk Region Sport Dance Public Association
Minsk City Public Association "Atletik "Sports Club"
Youth Sport Public Association "Shkola Muzhestva" (School of Courage) (Minsk)

Foundations

Local Charity Foundation "Revival of the Holy Ascension Church"

Non-government institutions

Cultural and Educational Institution "Grunt Budushego" (Soil of Future)
Institution "Information and Methodological Center "Life Without Alcohol"
Cultural Institution "Cantus Cordis "Choir"

NOVEMBER

Public associations

Youth Public Association to Assist Narcotics Anonymous Community (Grodno)
Belarusian Sports Association "Federation of Professional and Amateur Golf"
City Public Association "Sport and Recreation Club "Gomelskie Morzhi" (Gomel Ice Swimmers)
Public Association "Vitebsk Dog Training Center "Leader"

Non-government institutions

Educational Private Institution "Center for Child Development Problems "Levaniya"

Social and Cultural Institution of Belarusian Language and Culture Promotion "Mova Nanova"
Private Cultural Institution "International Cultural Center "PolskaStrona"

DECEMBER

Public associations

Local Public Association "Solnechny Krug" (Minsk)
Republican Public Association of Patients with Rheumatic Diseases "Doroga k Zhizni" (Road to Life)
Public Association " Grodno City Society for Consumer Rights Protection" "Revizor" (Auditor)
Youth Public Association "V Dvizhenii" (In Motion) (Minsk)
Public Association "Belarusian Society of Neurosurgeons"
Sports Regional Public Association "Volleyball Club "Syabry" (Friends) (Minsk)
Public Association "School for Young Farmers" (Grodno Region)

Foundations

Local Charity Foundation for Children with Renal Pathology "Prikosnis k Sudbe" (Touch the Fate)

Non-government institutions

Informational and Educational Institution "Za Velo Brest" (For Cycling Brest)
Private Social Care Institution "Techet Reka" (The River Flows)
Institution for Physical Culture and Sport "Grodno Hockey Club "Ritm" (Rhythm)
Private Sports Institution "Shotokan Karate"
Private Institution "Center for Adult Education "Useful Competencies Studio"
Cultural and Educational Institution "Center for Cultural Management "GEFIRA".